



TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Program

What is TNSTRONG?

TNSTRONG (*Tennessee Stop Tobacco and Revolutionize Our New Generation*) is a youth-led, statewide movement committed to raising awareness of the dangers of tobacco and fighting against the tobacco industry's influence on Tennessee youth.

TNSTRONG Teen Ambassadors

The TNSTRONG Teen Ambassadors will plan, implement, and participate in tobacco education and advocacy events across the state. They will play an active role within their communities, counties, and statewide. They will engage in local and statewide activism, educate their peers on tobacco-related issues, and inspire/motivate others to start taking action. These select youth leaders will receive specialized in-person and web-based training to advance their knowledge and further their advocacy skills.

The TNSTRONG Teen Ambassadors are the guiding body for the TNSTRONG movement throughout Tennessee, with supervision provided locally and overseen by the Tennessee Department of Health Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program.

Eligibility Requirements

The TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Program is open to rising 9th – 12th graders. Applicants must be in good academic standing with a minimum G.P.A of 2.5 and maintain that average throughout their term.



TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Application
Term: May 2018 – June 2019 (Open to High School Seniors)
May 2018 – June 2020 (Open to 9th – 11th Grade)

Instructions: Please type or print clearly: Applications must be *fully completed* to be considered for selection. To apply to become a TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador, the applicant must be enrolled/ enrolling in 9th-12th grades.

Application Deadline: 12 Noon CT, Wednesday, June 27th, 2018.

SECTION I: YOUR INFORMATION

Name _____ Age _____ Birth Date _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Organization/Group/School _____

Do you have a leadership role in this group? Yes ___ No __, if Yes Explain

School Attending _____

Current Grade _____

Will/ Did you attend the TNSTRONG Summit 2018? Yes ___ No__ Maybe ___

How many years have you been involved in tobacco or any advocacy? _____

What social media networks do you use? (Please fill in the handle /URL)

Facebook _____ Twitter _____

Instagram _____ Pinterest _____

YouTube _____ Snapchat _____

Tumblr _____ Other _____



SECTION II: SHORT ESSAY (Attach)

Please answer the following questions thoroughly and honestly. Have fun with it. Please provide specific examples whenever necessary. Attach completed document to this application.

1. Why are you interested in serving as a TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador?
2. What are the talents, skills and/or experience that you can bring to the TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Program?
3. As a TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador, what would you like to achieve at either the local or the state level that will contribute to the fight against the tobacco industry?
4. Share with us an experience that you had when you were a leader in a group setting: at school, at work, sports, clubs, etc. What challenges did you face and how did you overcome them? *If you have never been a leader, pick a barrier and describe how you believe you would overcome it.*

Section III: Video Submission

All applicants are required to record a video of themselves responding to the following statements/questions:

1. Tell us about yourself (30-60 seconds)
2. What makes you unique? (30-60 seconds)
3. What concerns you about the tobacco industry? (30-60 seconds)
4. What qualities make up a good leader? (30-60 seconds)
5. Name one (1) personal strength that you bring to the TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador role and one skill that you hope to develop while serving. (30-80 seconds)
6. Tell us why you are passionate about tobacco prevention.

Section IV: Letter of Recommendation OR Creative Project

All applicants are required to attach **one** recommendation letter OR a creative project to their application.

What is a Letter of Recommendation? This letter should come from a community, school, or organization leader who knows you well and can describe what qualities you have that make you a leader. Letters must be submitted independently by an adult, over the age of eighteen, to the Tennessee Department of Health address below.

What kind of Creative Project? This can be a sketch, a collage, a poem, a video, or other creative project, but must be directly related to anti-tobacco education and advocacy.

A TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador must exhibit a high degree of maturity, responsibility, flexibility, and leadership ability. By signing the bottom of this application and submitting it for consideration, you are agreeing to the following:

I understand that:

- a) The information I have provided may be verified, if necessary, by contacting persons or organizations named in this application, or by contacting any person or organization that may have information concerning me. I hereby release and agree to hold harmless from liability any person or organization that provides information. I also agree to hold harmless the Tennessee Department of Health, its employees and volunteers, thereof.
- b) By signing this application, I have read the attached information and am applying to become a TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador with the Tennessee Department of Health.
- c) If selected to become a TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador, I will meet all expectations listed in the Commitment Agreement, as well as any expectation that may be asked of me by the Tennessee Department of Health.
- d) The Tennessee Department of Health may use photographs, video, or audio that may be taken of me.

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e) I affirm that the information that I have given on this form is true and correct.

SIGNATURES

Printed Name of Applicant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Application Checklist

Please make sure you have completed all of the following to ensure we have all of your materials

- ☐ Print out application and type or print clearly all of your responses
- ☐ Record video
- ☐ Email a link to your video uploaded to a private YouTube channel with your first and last name to TNStrong.Health@tn.gov by Noon Central Time **Wednesday, June 27, 2018**
- ☐ Get one signed letter of recommendation from an adult not related to you or complete an anti-tobacco education and advocacy creative project
- ☐ Submit your application, recommendation letter **OR** tobacco creative project and your signed TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Commitment Agreement in one of the following ways
 - o Scan and email by Noon CT on **Wednesday, June 27, 2018** to TNStrong.Health@tn.gov or
 - o Mail to: Postmarked by **Wednesday, June 27, 2018**
Tennessee Department of Health
C/O Tokesha Warner or Ashley Jeans
Andrew Johnson Tower, 8th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville TN 37243

*****It is ultimately the responsibility of the applicant to make sure TDH receives all of the required paperwork by the deadline. We recommend following up to confirm receipt of your materials by emailing TNStrong.Health@tn.gov*****



TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

Service Term: June 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019/2020

The purpose of this COMMITMENT AGREEMENT is to ensure all youth applicants fully understand the commitment and responsibilities necessary to fulfill the role and responsibilities as a Teen Ambassador. The form is also intended to inform youth applicant parent(s)/guardian(s), to assure that commitment and responsibilities are understood and supported in the event that these responsibilities conflict with work, school, or other family commitments. The TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador or TA Program is an integral part of the Tennessee Tobacco Prevention Initiative. Under the direction and guidance of the Tennessee Department of Health, TAs embody the qualities of leadership, civic involvement and public service necessary to lead both their peers and adults in the continuing effort to protect people from the harmful effects of the tobacco use.

The main objective of the TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Program is to lead, inspire, engage, and share tobacco prevention resources across Tennessee.

What to Expect

Teen Ambassadors will have the opportunity to meet many people with different personalities and potentially make lifelong friends. They may have opportunities to travel and be exposed to new environments, cultures, values, and perspectives. They will initiate, plan, and participate in local, and possibly statewide, events and may meet and interact with legislators. They will develop leadership skills and the understanding necessary to harness the power of youth advocacy for tobacco use prevention and education.

Mandatory Responsibilities

- Read and agree to the TA Commitment Agreement.
- 70% participation in conference calls on the third Thursday of every month.
- Must be in good academic standing with a minimum G.P.A of 2.5 and maintain that average throughout their term.
- Have reliable, consistent internet access.
- Contribute information/updates/queries from their region during conference calls.
- Attend Annual TNSTRONG Summit.
- 100% attendance for in-person meetings unless excused.
- Regularly check and respond to program emails within 48 hours of receipt.



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- Participate in at least one advocacy activity at their school.
- Assist in planning and leading nationwide tobacco events within their county (Kick Butts Day, No Tobacco Day, etc.)
- Deliver at least two presentations to youth and/or adults by June 30th, 2019.
- Stay current on tobacco prevention and advocacy through articles, videos, and trainings as assigned.
- Communicate regularly and in a timely manner with local and regional coordinators, TDH, consultants, and fellow TAs.
- Promote TNSTRONG via social media and recruit followers.

Assist in recruiting members/groups to attend the TNSTRONG Summit

Each Teen Ambassador (TA) will be reviewed during the term of service for progress on program requirements. In addition, TDH staff members may request a copy of a TA report card to ensure academic responsibilities are being maintained. TDH has the right to remove any TA from active status based on inactivity or any conduct in contradiction to this agreement.

By signing this Commitment Agreement, said applicant agrees to abide by the terms set forth in this agreement and to make every effort to actively serve the full term on the Commitment Agreement should he/she be selected.

I have read and understood the TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Commitment Agreement.

Should I be selected to become a 2018-2019/2020 TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador, I agree to fulfill my commitment by meeting all of the agreed upon standards of conduct and service. I acknowledge that this opportunity is a privilege and, should I fail to meet the expectations listed above, I understand that I may be dismissed from the TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador program.

Furthermore, I am committed to helping make the vision of a Tobacco-Free Tennessee a reality.

Printed Applicant Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____